

ABAWD for Other Counties

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Overview

Section 1: ABAWD 101

Section 2: Proposed Legislation

Acronyms

- ABAWD: Abled Bodied Adults without Dependents
- BFET: Basic Food Employment & Training Program
- CBO: Community Based Organization
- CSO : Community Service Office
- CSCC: Customer Service Contact Center (call center)
- FNS: Food and Nutrition Services (Federal overseeing entity)
- SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Federal program)

Timeline

Prior to the Great Recession

Non-exempt ABAWDs in King County only

Statewide SNAP eligibility determined regionally (5 regions)

2008 – December 2015 Great Recession

Statewide exemption from ABAWD time limits

DSHS Hiring freeze until 2012

DSHS CSO and CSCC moves to statewide workload

2014-2015- Prep for the return of ABAWD Time limit

December 2015- creation of ABAWD Specialized Team and training for processing ABAWD cases

January 2016

Non-exempt areas return to Washington (3 counties affected)

February – recruitment of Workfare sites

April – First waive of clients terminated that had not participated for 3 months

REACH

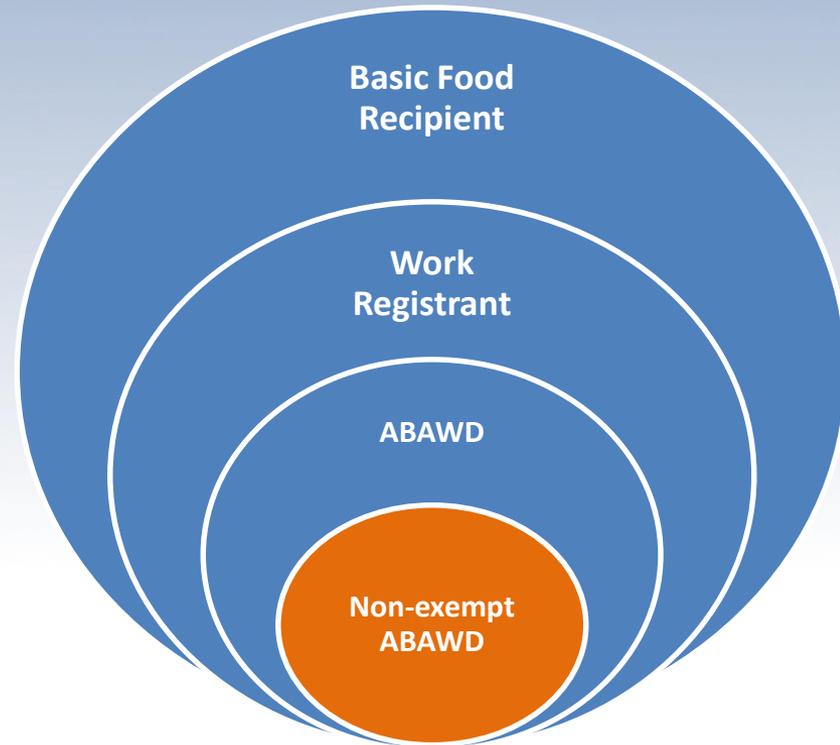
Transforming
Lives

Washington State Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Time Limit & Requirements
January 1st 2018 – December 31st 2018



Counties that have ABAWD Time Limits and Requirements for benefits.

Counties (and one tribal reservation) that **do not** have the ABAWD requirements.



Clock

Every ABAWD in the State is on the same **36-month** timeline



Months

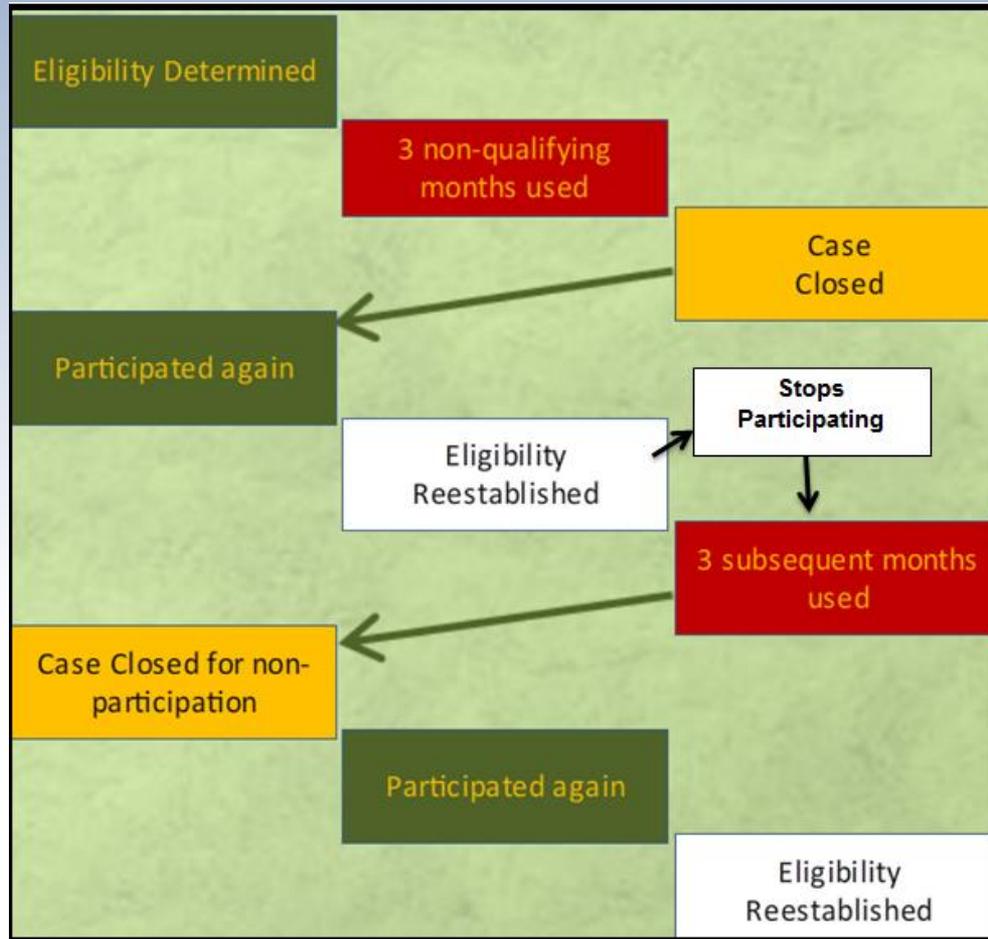
*A countable month or a non-qualifying month is any month in which a non-exempt ABAWD receives a **FULL** month of benefits while **not** fulfilling the ABAWD work requirement.*

Clients can receive 3 non-qualifying months.

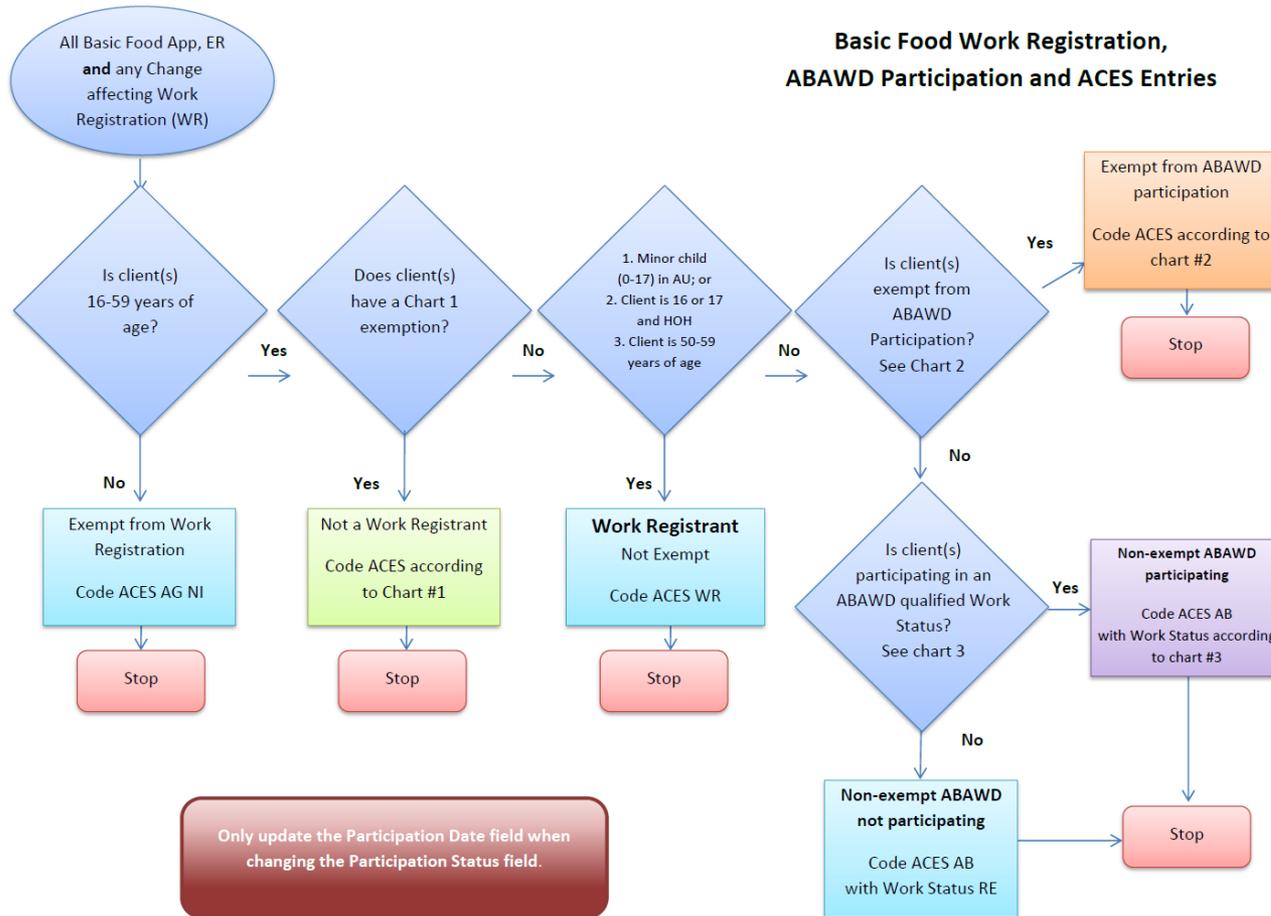
Then they must participate to regain eligibility.

If they fail to participate again they can have **ONE** set of additional 3 months of benefits within the 36 month period.

Flow of Qualifying and Requalifying



Determining Who is an ABAWD



Determining Exemptions

ACES Work Registration Coding and Remarks

Exempt Reason:

Participation Status:

Participation Date:

Offenses: Supplemented Work Program

Closure Delay Reason:

Work Status:

Chart #1

| Work Registration Exemptions | Exemption Reason | Participation Status | ABAWD Work Status | Remarks Needed? |
|---|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|
| ✓ Age 16 or 17 and not HOH | AG | NI | | No |
| ✓ Age 16 or 17 attending school | AG | NI | | No, enter Student Status |
| ✓ Student half-time or more | ST | NI | | No, enter Student Status |
| ✓ Has at least \$935.25 per month in earned income | EM | NI | | No, enter Income & Hours |
| ✓ Receiving Unemployment Compensation | UC | NI | | No, enter Income |
| ✓ Applying for Unemployment Compensation | UC | NI | | Yes |
| ✓ Ineligible Alien | IA | NI | | No |
| ✓ Participating in WorkFirst (not in WF sanction) | PC | NI | | No |
| ✓ Participating through Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) or Matching Grant Funds | RF | NI | | No, if active on RCA. Yes, if getting Matching Grant Funds |
| ✓ Disabled (SSI/SSA/NGMA/ABD) for 12+ months | FD | NI | | No, code Disability Approval Source |
| ✓ Non-ABAWD - HEN/Worker's Comp (L&I or Private) | TI | NI | | No, if open on HEN referral or Worker's Comp income is entered |
| ✓ In Drug or Alcohol treatment other than Methadone | DR | NI | | Yes |
| ✓ Caring for a dependent child under age 6 in the AU | CA | NI | | No |
| ✓ Caring for a disabled person | CA | NI | | Yes |

Revised 04/14/2016

Chart #2

| ABAWD Participation Exceptions | Exempt Reason | Participation Status | ABAWD Work Status | Remarks Needed? |
|--|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|---|
| ✓ Pregnant | TI | AB | RE | Yes, and enter Due Date on the Client Screen |
| ✓ Client unable to work 20 hours/week (e.g. chronic homelessness or medical condition) | TI | AB | RE | Yes, auto-tickle will be generated for 90 days after TI coding is first entered |
| ✓ Lives in any county other than King, Pierce or Snohomish | EA | AB | | No, but Physical Address must match |
| ✓ Lives in the City of Tacoma or City of Lakewood | EA | AB | | No, but Physical Address must match |
| ✓ Participating in RISE less than 20 hours/week | | AB | SW | Yes, document reason as instructed |
| ✓ CSD Headquarters (HQ) approved exemption | | AB | SW | Yes, document reason as instructed |

Chart #3

| ABAWD Qualified Work Statuses | Exempt Reason | Participation Status | ABAWD Work Status | Remarks Needed? |
|---|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|
| ✓ Working 80+ hours per month, but earning less than \$935.25 monthly (hours for "in-kind" and excluded income are also counted) | | AB | EM | No, enter income and hours on Earned Income Topic |
| ✓ Volunteering the number of hours required (Benefit Amount/state minimum wage) at an approved Workfare site with a signed 09-866 form | | AB | WF | Yes, must have signed DSHS 01-205 before coding every month – ABAWD Team |
| ✓ Trade Act of 1974 or WIOA (non-TANF) | | AB | WP | Yes |
| ✓ 20+ hours/week BFET and/or RISE (at least 10 hours must be non-JS/non-JT) | | AB | WP | No, but must be active in eJAS |
| ✓ Refugee (non-cash) work program | | AB | WP | No, but must be active in eJAS |
| ✓ Non-Exempt and not participating | | AB | RE | No, this client will be reviewed monthly for participation |

Note: The ABAWD Specialized Team will update Work Status when Appropriate.

Communication To the Client

- Application, Eligibility Review or Change that affects ABAWD status – DSHS Form 11-024b
- At an interview or when client calls asking about ABAWD status
- The termination letter.
- Public website www.dshs.wa.gov/abawd
- Contact with the virtual ABAWD Specialized Team
 - jobhelp@dshs.wa.gov
 - Customer Contact Center- 1-877-501-2233*

Work Registrant VS ABAWD

| | General SNAP Work Requirements (WAC 388-444-0005) | Additional ABAWD Requirements (WAC 388-444-0030 and 0035) |
|--|---|--|
| Requirements DO NOT apply to those who are: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the age of 16 or over the age of 60; • Physically or mentally disabled; • Complying with the work requirements of another program; • Responsible for a child under the age of six; • Already working more than 30 hours X Federal Min Wage a week; • Participating in a drug or alcoholic rehab program • Students enrolled at least half time. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exempt from general SNAP work requirements; • Under 18 or age 50 or over; • Receiving Food benefits with child under 18; • Physically or mentally unable to work; • Pregnant |

Participation Requirements

Employment

- Income under \$935 a month (over would be an exemption)
- Work at least 80 hours a month or 20 hours a week averaged

Employment & Training

- Participate in activities 80 hours a month or 20 hours a week averaged.
- Job search can only account for half of these hours if it is not performed under WIOA

Workfare

- Hours of participation are based on monthly benefit amount divided by local minimum wage (rounded down).

Participation can be met by a combination of Employment and E&T but Workfare is stand alone.

State Approved E&T opportunities

- Basic Food Employment and Training (BFET).
- Resources to Initiate Successful Employment (RISE) pilot (King or Pierce counties).
- Programs included in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- AmeriCorps programs
- Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Pathway
- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

More to come!

Workfare

Workfare is an optional program created to give Abled Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD) the opportunity to volunteer in their community to meet the ABAWD work activity requirements.

What qualifies a Workfare site/ position?

- A nonprofit, public, or government agency.
- Does not replace full time or part time employee positions, or fill vacancies with unpaid workfare labor.
- Safe environment.
- Sign an agreement and communication placement requirements with DSHS.

What are the Workfare host agency's responsibilities?

- Provide supervised duties in which participants will learn vocational skills and gain work experience.
- Provide necessary documentation and reporting of attendance to DSHS.
- Report documentation monthly.
- Report any issues or problems timely.
- Furnish training, equipment and materials required for duties of the workfare position.

ABAWD Team

Transforming
Lives

- Attempt engagement
- Review options
- Contact Workfare Sites
- Review inability to work





ABAWD Profile Data March 2018

| | # of Clients | % of Total |
|---|--------------|------------|
| Total | 6,052 | 100.0% |
| Gender | | |
| Female | 1,969 | 32.5% |
| Male | 4,083 | 67.5% |
| Age Category | | |
| Under 18 Years Old | 1 | 0.0% |
| 18 - 19 Years Old | 312 | 5.2% |
| 20 - 29 Years Old | 2,682 | 44.3% |
| 30 - 39 Years Old | 1,838 | 30.4% |
| 40 - 49 Years Old | 1,205 | 19.9% |
| 50+ Years Old | 14 | 0.2% |
| Veteran | | |
| Veteran | 120 | 2.0% |
| Housing Status | | |
| Homeless without housing | 1,233 | 20.4% |
| Homeless with housing | 1,295 | 21.4% |
| Living At Home | 3,503 | 57.9% |
| Other Living Arrangement | 21 | 0.3% |
| Employment During Past 12 Months | | |
| Unemployed During Past 12 Months | 3,909 | 64.6% |
| Employed During Past 12 Months | 2,143 | 35.4% |
| Non-Custodial Parent | | |
| Non-Custodial Parent | 874 | 14.4% |
| Non-Custodial Parent Owing ARREARS | 789 | 13.0% |

¹ EMAPS Report– ABAWD Profile- nonparticipants March 2018

² Restricted to those living in King County.

Proposed Changes that Could Impact Other Washington Counties*

*Since the Forum the Proposed House Bill failed to move forward. We will have to wait for the next version from the House and Senate to see what is retained and what is changed.

Noted Changes

1. All Work Registrants Must Participate
2. Waiver Determination Changes
3. Length of Disqualification
4. Component Changes
5. Funding

All Work Registrants Must Participate



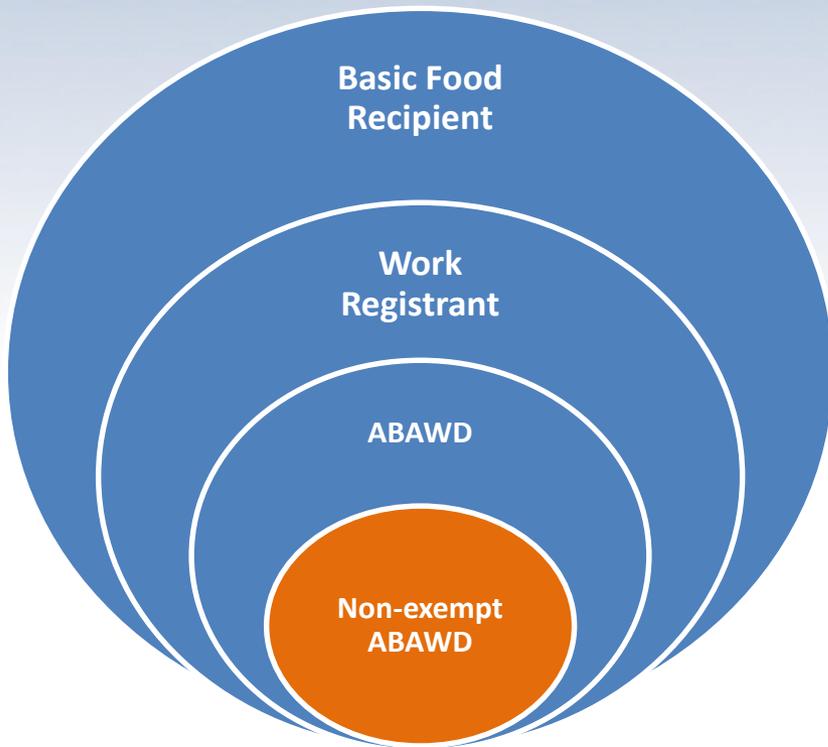
Only exemptions that would apply as the bill stands right now:

1. Not in a waived county;
2. Under 18, over 59;
3. Mentally or Physically Disabled; or
4. Caregiver for a child under 6

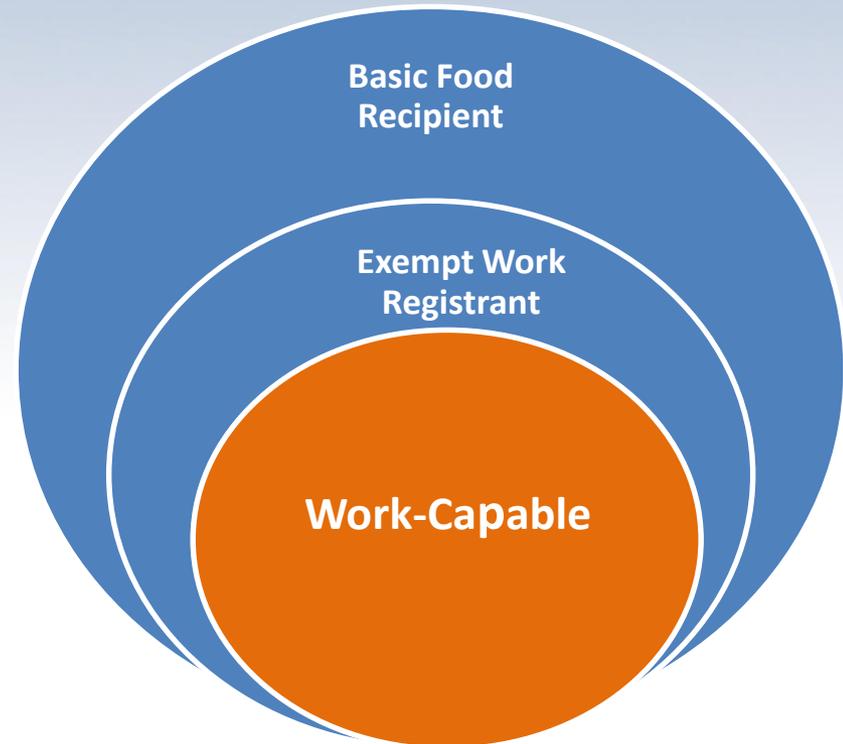
This eliminates the treatment of ABAWDs as a separate population from other work registrants.

Language in the bill talks about Work Registrants as “Work-capable Adults”.

Current



Proposed



Waiver Determination Changes

Currently:

Waiver is determine by unemployment rates in an *economic area* being 20% higher than the national average. This can be a county, city, tribal reservation or some other economic area that has data to support the unemployment rates.

Example: When we first lost the statewide waiver in 2016, there was enough unemployment data to waive the cities of Tacoma and Lakewood, despite the greater Pierce County area having a low unemployment rate.

Currently the Muckleshoot Tribal reservation is waived due to high unemployment. The rest of King County is not waived.

Waiver Determination Changes Pt 2

Proposed Changes:

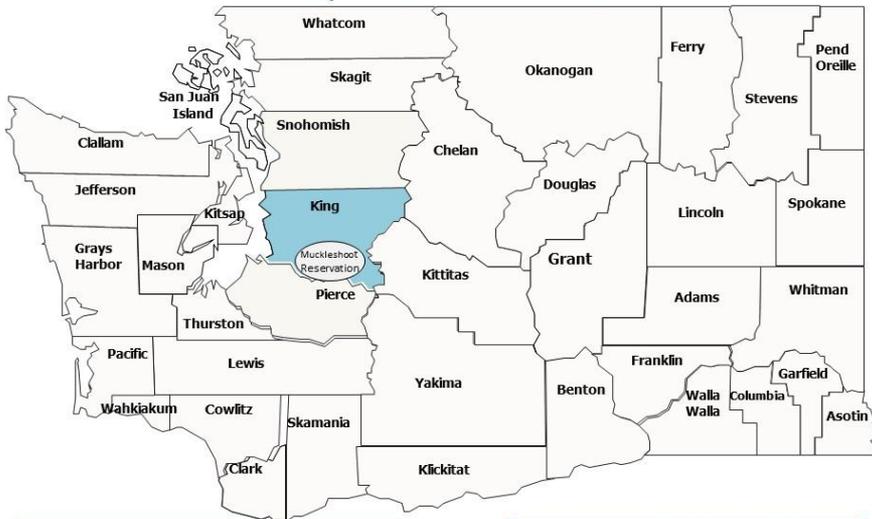
These have not been formally determined or released. We can only go off of assumptions based on questions we have received:

1. What an “economic area” is and how states are allowed to define them.
2. What kind of “grouping” of areas can be done:
Example: a state may group a county with very high unemployment, with a county that is borderline on the cusp, to exempt both.
3. Possibility of waiver only for areas 40% higher than national average (April average 3.9%)

Current (20% over National Average)

If Based on 40%*

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*Based on November 2017 Information

Length of Disqualification

Currently: A person can only receive 3 months of food benefits without participation. They can possibly receive 3 additional months if they requalify. However if the client does not participate they are ineligible for the remaining of the 36 month period.

Proposed: 12 months of ineligibility for the first occurrence of non-compliance and 36 months for each subsequent occurrence. It is not clear if a client can regain eligibility during the suspension periods.

Component Changes

Currently: All components are optional.

Job Search Training, Basic Education, Vocational Education,
Job Search and Job Retention.

In WA we have

- Assessments (IEP process) as part of our orientation;
- A Case management component used to capture the additional work our partners do to break down barriers for our clients; and
- Clients do job search through/monitored by BFET Providers

Component Changes Pt. 2

Proposed:

States must include case management and assessments; eliminates independent job search and workfare.

This would not be a big change as WA has already been incorporating these aspects. However if Workfare was no longer an option we would need to build capacity within BFET and other approved E&T programs.

Funding for Work Registration

Currently:

BFET 100% reimbursement for administration

BFET 50/50 reimbursement for administration

BFET 50/50 for Participant Reimbursement

ABAWD 100% Pledge Funding: Administration of ABAWD services, and tracking participation.

Proposed:

Increases 100% funding for E&T to \$1B; eliminates pledge State funding

Ideas For ABAWD Activities?



- Online classes
- Other volunteer opportunities?

Spirit of Partnership

We can't do it alone!

